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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

22 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Space Policy Review Group Membership - DECISION MEMORANDUM

During Secretary Reed's meeting with you on 15 March, he mentioned that the National Security Council Staff has initiated a study to develop a comprehensive national space policy. At the initial meeting in January, DOD was represented by project officers from ODDR&E, OASD(ISA), the OASD(I), and the NRO; JCS representation was inadvertently precluded. Subsequently, a meeting of principals was held in February. DOD representation at this meeting was specified by your office to be furnished by the OASD(ISA) and ODDR&E; later a JCS representative was approved and did attend. Secretary Reed and I believe that a member of the NRO should be a formal player in this important endeavor for several reasons.

First, much of the work which this new group will carry out will be a follow-on from the recently abolished Space Policy Committee. On that group the Deputy Secretary of Defense was designated as the senior DOD representative and members from ODDR&E, OASD(ISA), JCS, and the NRO each had a voice. Thus, I believe it appropriate to maintain essentially the same representation at the principal's level on the new Committee.

Second, reconnaissance satellites constitute one of the largest space programs and one of the most sensitive from the standpoints of intelligence value and sophisticated application of technology.

Third, DOD, representing both military and reconnaissance satellite activities, will be interfacing with at least seven civil agencies. Just as no one representative of any of these agencies could be expected to represent all of their collective interests, I believe that each separate discipline within DOD should be represented by a voice.

For these reasons, I believe that the NRO should be represented at meetings of the new NSC Space Policy Committee. The memorandum at the right for your signature establishes DOD representation to include the NRO. Recommend your approval and signature. [redacted]

(and many other interested agencies in D.D).

Acting Director

Approved _____
Disapproved _____
See Me _____

I fully agree NRO should be represented, informed, and involved. But since DoD may chair the [redacted] I do think the appropriate [redacted] say now DoD's position when [redacted] organized. [redacted]

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